Bud's Copy

TARC NEWSLETTER

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JANUARY, 1996

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Marty Coin WD4LNM 264-9447
V.PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building
TARC Nets: VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910
Friendship - Thursdays at 1830 hrs on 146.910
Mosquito - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC Repeaters: VHF - 146.910 and 146.970. UHF - 444.150

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

The New Year is here. Have you decided on any New Year's resolutions?

I want to express my sincere thanks to the outgoing officers and board members for their contribution and accomplishments made during this past year. I know TARC can count on your continued support of your club.

To the new officers and board members, I am pleased to have this opportunity to serve with you and I know we are going to have a super productive 1996.

To all members I pledge to do my very best in making your club continue to grow and to enjoy the fellowship that has become our trade mark. Needless to say, I want your input on all matters pertaining to the direction of your club.

As you know many of our members donated their time and energy to assist in the holiday season activities including but not limited to the Mims and Titusville parades; acting as judges for the Kennedy Point Yacht Club sponsored "Parade of Lights Show"; gathering toys for underprivileged children and other worth while projects. Thanks, gang, for a job well done.

By the way Santa brought Sherry an exercising machine and according to the instructions you can get in and stay in shape while watching your favorite TV program. Boy, I never knew that you had to crank that machine so long to get rid of just one banana split!

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting on January 23. Til then 73's

EDITOR'S DESK

By Clyde K4EOS

We wish to express our condolences to Bud K4CWG on the loss of his father in Alabama and to José KC4VIO on the loss of his mother in Puerto Rico. Bud and his family have expressed their appreciation for the flowers sent by the club. The following note was received from José's family in Puerto Rico.

> Our sincere thanks for your thoughts and prayers during the loss of our beloved mother, Juanita. Your basket of roses and carnations was so beautiful and well appreciated. We have used it each night for the rosaries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JAN.1 N4ZNQ JIM MEEKS
JAN.2 KR4GS TONY LAPENTA
JAN.3 KE4AGO BILL REALY
JAN.5 KE6DPF PAUL YOCOM
JAN.8 N4AWX BRIAN VAN ALSTINE
JAN.8 N4KHU DAVE ROBERTS
JAN.11 KE4RFJ DEBBIE BUTTON
JAN.12 KE4NYM MATT KELLER
JAN.12 K4WSE JOHN WOOD
JAN.13 KE4TTZ SANDY THORNE
JAN.13 WD4DIR JOHN MESSINA
JAN.14 WB4AXB ART BURSCH
JAN.17 K04NQ FRENCHY POULIN
JAN.17 KE4CRG STEVE SAUNDERS
JAN.19 KB7UOW BRUCE ERICKSON
JAN.20 AD4RR RAY EAST
JAN.21 KE4MFT EDDIE GASS
JAN.21 KE4MXF KAY JORDAN
JAN.22 KF4BGK EDWARD LYONS
JAN.23 KC4VIN CAROL ANN RAMOS
JAN.26 K4SJC LES GRINER
JAN.28 KA1BDC ART DeANGELIS
JAN.28 WA4JWU ROGER VERBLE

BOAT PARADE OF LIGHTS - 12/16/95

Once again the Titusville Amateur Radio Club was honored to be chosen as judges for the annual event. The armada from the Titusville Marina sailed south to join the Kennedy Point Yacht Club entries and proceed north through the drawbridge. Under the critical (and experienced) eyes of the judges, first and second prizes were awarded for:

Most Original Decorations
Most in Christmas spirit

Minimal discord ensued as a result of 12 judges and 42 entries. However, through negotiations, the judges arrived at a consensus.

Having achieved agreement a radio transmission followed and was conveyed to the Parade Coordinator to wit:

Most Original: "Argentine"
"Topaz", 2nd
Most Christmas Spirit: "Cygnet"
"Why Knot, 2nd

A nautical salute to the following TARC members who gave unstintingly of their time and talents in this regard as follows:

Marine Coordinator:	Les K4SJC
Property Manager:	Bud K4CWG
Jury Foreman:	Ralph AE4LE
Security Officer:	Pike W4EPU
#1 Judge	Ken KD4HNW
#1 Judge	Eddie KE4MFT
#1 Judge	Sandy KE4TQZ
#1 Judge	Dave AE4OJ
#1 Judge	Butch KE4YQN
#1 Judge	Patty not yet

If I missed anyone, please excuse - very dark out there.
Cliff KC4SYD, Admirable Secretary

P.S. According to information received by radio from the east shore: KE4MWZ - 11
Catfish - 1

THOUGHTS FROM AN AMATEUR RADIO SPOUSE

By Faith R. Horlick
From 12/95 QST

These words are directed to those spouses who watch their mates sit for hours in the radio shack anxious to talk to anyone in the world who has a transmitter/receiver. This is for those spouses who feel those fleeting moments of communication are usurping the time that is meant for them. In short, this is for those spouses who think their mate's avocation is a royal pain in the....neck. To these kindred spirits, I say "Take heart, you can indeed have a fulfilling life with a Ham." All it takes is a slightly different way of viewing your homelife.

Six years ago my husband fulfilled a goal and got his license. Jeffrey did it with the usual enthusiasm he attached to any project. In one year, he went from Novice to Extra Class - just bolted straight on through. It's an achievement that has brought exclamations of

admiration from those who appreciate the time and effort involved...and who also happen to care. Jeffrey achieved this goal with the tolerance of his wife and daughter.

As you can guess, I was dealing with someone who did not view this as a passing whim. I was a "Ham Widow" and I had to accept it. I had to adjust or put what had been a long, satisfying marriage in the dumpster of life. As far as I know, there are no support groups or self-help groups available to us. There are no 800 numbers we can call to help us deal with our feelings of frustration generated from the fact that we *know where he is.* We can see him, we can touch him, but we can't *talk* to him.

There are a number of ways to finally make the adjustment. Some spouses adopt the "if you can't fight them, join them" approach: They get their own license. I guess they think this will bind them closer to their mates - give them a common interest - give them stories of their own to relate to their ham buddies. In short, they decide they'll try to care.

Then there are the Ham Widows who are asked by their mates, "Say, I'd love it if you got your license, too. This happens because the mate knows he is spending a huge amount of time on the radio and is showing signs of guilt. Even though he loves his new toy - *oops, activity* - he also cares about his spouse.

So now the spouse has to decide if this is something she actually wants to consider doing. Not only is she undeniable dealing with feelings of neglect, but she now has to decide if she wants to take the effort to study and take exams on material she would rather see put through the shredder. Mama told us there would be days like this.

Another group - and I belong to this one - takes a different approach. This group recognizes that Amateur Radio holds some enjoyment for the spouse and, since they love their spouse, they want him to be happy. They also recognize this is not the worst hobby to come along.

First of all, you always know where your spouses are - they are home on the radio. Second, the people involved in this activity are, for the most part, nice friendly people. Third, they care about their families and tend to have an interest in staying married. (In these times this is no small thing.) Fourth, you certainly have time to pursue your own interests. I went back to school, got my degree, and went back to work.

Last but not least, the zeal with which they begin this hobby trends to diminish. At a later point, they begin to see there are other things going on and spend less time on the radio and more with you. Yes, this really does happen. It just takes a little time.

As I step over the radio equipment littering my hallway due to Jeffrey's preparations for Old Town Day, I encourage you to be patient with your ham and with yourself - and get an interest of your own.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Clara and Pike arranged one swell party! The THS Jazz Band was great! After a good dinner, the officers and board members for 1996 were installed; Charlie KR4YZ, outgoing president was presented a plaque for his contributions to the club; Clyde K4EOS received the prestigious "Soap on a Rope" award and two "Ham of the Year" awards were presented to Kay KD4VFQ and Pike W4EPU. Everyone had a good time - especially after Pike announced that Clara was not going to make us sing The Twelve Days of Christmas this year.

FROM THE COMMERCIAL RADIO EXAMINER'S NEWS BULLETIN

COMMERCIAL OPERATOR EXAMINATION ELEMENTS

Written Element 1: Basic Radio Law & R/T Operating Practice
Written Element 3: Electronic Fundamentals & Techniques
Written Element 5: Radiotelegraph Operating Procedures
Written Element 6: Advanced Radiotelegraph Oper. Procedures
Written Element 7: GMDSS Operating Practices & Regulations
Written Element 8: Ship Radar Techniques. Theory & Practice
Written Element 9: GMDSS Radio Maintenance Procedures
Telegraphy Element 1: 16 wpm - Code Groups
Telegraphy Element 2: 20 wpm - Plain Language Text
Telegraphy Element 3: 20 wpm - Code Groups
Telegraphy Element 4: 25 wpm - Plain Language Text

THE MOST POPULAR EXAMINATIONS ARE:

Element 1, 3 and 8 which account for 92% of all commercial radio operator examinations.

REGULATORY FEES DISCONTINUED

Effective July 3, 1995, all Regulatory Fees for Commercial Operator License Examinations have been discontinued. We put this notice in our twice-a-month W5YI Report, but some of you apparently missed the notice.

The only fee that an examinee now pays for any Commercial Radio Operator testing is the $35.00 examination fee which is payable for every permit, license or endorsement for which the applicant applies. (The fee is $70 if an applicant applies for the General Radio Telephone Operator License (GROL) with a Radar Endorsement.)

The FCC's *1995 Fee Filing Guide* originally showed an additional $35.00 Regulatory Fee for the Marine Radio Operator Permit, both GMDSS licenses and all Commercial Radiotelegraph Operator Certificates. The FCC has now determined that they do not have Congressional authority to collect Regulatory fees for commercial operator licenses.

Again, the ONLY fee that you collect from examinees is the $35.00 examination fee - of which you send $20.00 oper license (payable to National Radio Examiners) to our office with your test session paperwork. The examination fee is collected, of course, whether or not the applicant passes the examination.

RADICAL RADIATORS & WEIRD WIRES

By Curtis R. Holsopple, K9CH
From 1/96 QST

Are you one of those folks who can't get on the air because you can't put up a decent antenna? If so, you're missing a lot of fun. You're also overlooking the emergency preparedness aspect of using make-do antennas.

One of my passions is antennas. I have nearly every edition of the *ARRL Antenna Book* on my shelf. The experts can help you get the most out of your antenna system, no doubt about that, but you're not out of luck if your antenna isn't perfect.

I don't compromise on safety, but aside from that, I've made plenty of contacts on the HF bands with some off-beat antennas. In fact, I've seen and used some skyhooks that have been downright *weird.*

The Cramped Vertical:
The long awaited Novice license arrived in September of my ninth grade year, and so did my initiation into the world of unorthodox antennas. One of my paper r[redacted] customers was also my Elmer, Harold Mahlke, W8[redacted] (ex W8DOI). Harold had a nice two element quad on his roof back then, but his garage sported a vertical for 20 meters that wasn't quite "by the book". Of the four radials in the antenna's ground plane, only two were stretched out straight in the open air while the other two took more devious courses. One ran through Harold's attic while the other crossed his garage roof for a few feet before it doglegged to the right to keep from running into the neighbor's yard. It wasn't quite kosher, yet he made plenty of DX contacts with that antenna.

A Communications Bus:
When I got to college I met somebody who was an electronics nerd like myself. Dave Hershberger. He was WA9QCH back then, but now he's W9GR and one of the geniuses behind digital signal processing. Dave and I got acquainted during freshman orientation while swapping ham radio war stories. He told me about his home-brew 7-W portable 40 meter CW rig that he built into a briefcase. Dave tried his radio with a trick antenna one night. He'd taken the rig to a high school play practice. During a slow stretch when he wasn't needed on stage, he looked around for an ad-hoc antenna. His rig included a built-in antenna tuner, so he loaded up a *school bus* using the window frame on a nearby building as his ground! He had no trou[redacted] working Michigan from his northern Illinois locat[redacted] Come to think of it, the dimensions of the typical school bus are pretty good for a quarter wavelength antenna on 40 meters.

Speaker Wire on Two Meters:
During a college summer term in 1972, I was assigned a dorm room facing away from the nearest 2 meter repeater, nearly 30 miles distant. So I worked out a deal with someone across the hall and mounted a vertically oriented dipole in his window. The sneaky part involved running a feed line across the hall. Coax wouldn't fit around the doors, and it looked unsightly crossing the hallway ceiling. This called for a visually stealthy approach. I used speaker wire zip cord for the feed line,

stuffing it up between the acoustic ceiling tiles. Theoretically, speaker wire should be pretty lousy at 146 MHz, but its impedance is a close enough match for the rig to work.

>By then, I'd begun to see a pattern. If you can't build the antenna you love, try loving the antenna you can get away with. Ideal antennas are nice, but second best arrays (or worse) still tickle the ether, and makes contacts even sweeter.

Low Antennas Still Work:

After finishing college, Dave went to grad school and a career in electronics design work. I became a nomadic broadcast engineer, teacher and writer, but we stayed in touch by ham radio, often with weekly schedules. Dave had pretty good luck with home brew antennas tuners and 100 to 150 feet of no. 28 wire strung out the apartment window into nearby trees.

>Defying the conventional practice of feeding an antenna from the bottom. Dave's random wire antennas were often lower than his upper story dwellings. Yet, he worked some DX and made plenty of stateside contacts with such less than ideal antennas.

>I didn't have an antenna tuner for many years, so I relied on dipoles cut to my favorite frequency with the help of an SWR meter. Often I've strung these antennas impossibly low, such as the time I had an 80 meter dipole with the feed point about 7 feet off the ground. I didn't crack too many DX pileups with that configuration, but it was great for local and regional net activity because the high radiation angle favored close-in propagation. And running 100 W into a 40 meter dipole at that height was adequate for some DX contacts on 15 meters.

The Clip Lead Wonder:

When my wife Edie and I worked at ARRL Headquarters in the 1980s, we lived in an apartment just a couple of blocks from W1AW. Edie said that working at Headquarters without a ham license was like going to Jerusalem and only eating at fast food restaurants. So she hit the books and got her ticket. Edie showed a ready aptitude for CW operating, and she upgraded to Extra Class within two years. Naturally, she wanted to get on the air. I stapled a 15 meter dipole to the ceiling of the apartment, once again feeding it with my trusty speaker wire. Edie had the usual new ham jitters and started out with a couple of incomplete contacts. Then she worked Joe, WA7WLY in Coos Bay, Oregon. They chatted for more than half an hour until severe fading forced an end to their conversation. Joe did his best to help her have a successful experience, and he even sent a special "First Contact QSL card.

>Edie wanted to try the other bands, so I got out the speaker wire and stapler and went back to work. Before long I had strung up additional antenna wire to lengthen that 15 meter dipole for use on 40 and 80 meters. Carefully labeled clip leads helped me quickly re configure the array for each band.

>Naturally we kept the transmitter power output under 100 W with this indoor antenna. (QST was just beginning to publish news about the potential biological hazards of RF radiation.) Although the jury is still out on the dangers of RF exposure, I might not try that ceiling antenna now. If you attempt an indoor antenna, I recommend running 10 W or less.

>In my case, however, the bigger hazard was in stirring up trouble with the other tenants. I didn't want the Worked All Neighbors award (or a punch in the schnoz), so I made the rounds in the building to explain the situation.

>As it turned out, everybody was very nice about it. They agreed not to call the police, and I agreed not to operate during prime time. That was the year the Boston Red Sox and the New York Mets had a hot baseball pennant race. You can be sure I avoided transmitting while the games were being broadcast.

The Rain Gutter Configuration:

After four happy but hectic years, Edie and I left Newington and moved to her home state of Virginia. We wound up in a brand new townhouse in Harisonburg, set in the scenic Shenandoah Valley. The landlord was queasy about allowing us to put up an outside antenna at first, but this was 1988 and the sunspot cycle was really heating up. We had to get on the air, so we did our best with a truly invisible antenna.

>The townhouse was a bit cramped, so we installed the ham shack in the laundry closet. (We did not have a washer and dryer - first things first!) I ran a short wire out through the dryer vent to a nearby rain gutter and used an antenna tuner to feed the array. It worked pretty well, and I made a lot of contacts on all bands.

>Once the landlord saw that I was causing no interference, he consented to an outside dipole attached to the gable.That worked better, of course, but the rain gutter array had been more interesting, starting some pretty rich conversations on the air.

TREASURERS REPORT

By K4EOS Clyde Lee

BALANCE FORWARD FROM 1994	1,070.58
DEPOSITS Year to date	8,055.29
TOTAL INCOME	$9,125.87
EXPENDITURES	6,233.32
BALANCE AS AT 11/30/95	$2,892.55

THANK YOU!

I'd like to thank those members who responded so positively to my plea for ARRL memberships to be submitted through the club. Quite a large number have done so, and the club has gained financially by their doing so.

On behalf of TARC I would also like to thank the members who made financial contributions in 1995. Most of those who did so wish to remain anonymous, but the contributions ranged from $5.00 to $100.00 (donated in memory of "Tag" Tartaglia), and added quite a bit to the annual club income.

NOVEMBER MEETING

By Bobbi Sue Wood AD4VV

The meeting was called to order at 1905 hrs by Charlie KR4YZ before eighty members and guests. The following items were covered.

1. Cliff KC4SYD noted that the hamfest was a great success, and even though the receipts were about half of those last year, he believed the members had twice the fun.

2. Pike W4EPU reminded the members of the Christmas party to be held at the Royal Oaks club on the 15th. Entertainment will start at 1815 hrs, and dinner is scheduled for 1830 hrs. As usual, gifts will be exchanged, and Pike hinted at some unusual "events"

3. Carl KD4CBT asked for volunteers to support the Jaycees during the annual Christmas parade to be held December 9th.

4. The following applicants were voted as members: Eric KF4BRL, Abbie KF4DTC, Joe KF4BRY and William KF4HIXX.

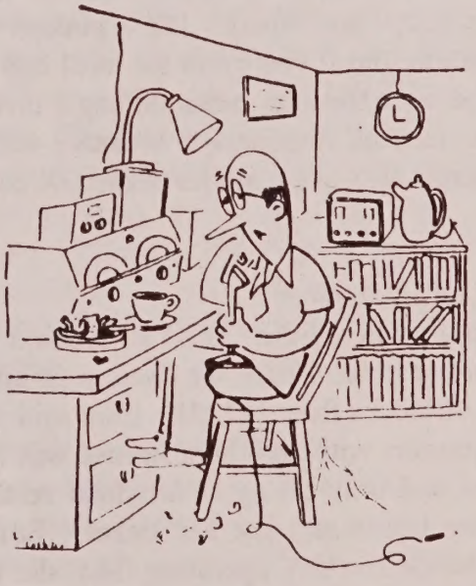
5. Charlie KR4YZ advised the members that the Disabled Veterans had offered the use of their hall to the club for the regular monthly meetings. Bud K4CWG made a motion (carried) to table discussion on this matter until the January meeting.

6. Ozzie K4SCY requested volunteers to assist in the conduct of the Mims Christmas parade.

7. The annual elections were held and the following appointments were announced.

President:	Bud K4CWG
V.Pres.:	Pike W4EPU
Secretary:	Marty WD4JNM
Treasurer:	Clyde K4EOS
Director:	Buck KC4CP
Director:	Warren KS4GP
Director:	Allan KC4UUX
Director:	Kay KS4VFQ

The meeting was adjourned at 2015 hrs.



"..... CQ ..... CQ ..... CQ ....."

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

I trust all of you had a happy holiday. I'm sure some of you traveled long distances by car to be with your loved ones at Christmas. For some, to get there and back during your allotted vacation time, it was necessary to do some of your traveling at night. And when driving at night you faced an unlimited variety of headlight intensities and configurations. During your trip, you probably saw all of the following - some on numerous occasions:

The Winker: One bright and one dim headlight. When the dimmer is activated they change sides.

The Blinker: Different from the winker in that his lights are on high beam. When you dim your lights, he turns his off and on to let you know he can't.

The Stinker: (no rhymes are intended here) His lights are on high beam. Functionally they are normal and properly adjusted. He just refuses to dim.

The One-eyed Monster: Only one headlight. You don't know which side it is on. From a distance it could easily be mistaken for a motorcycle.

The Blinder: On high beam they are as bright as the sun. On low beam they are as bright as normal high beams.

The Pulsar: One or both headlights are pulsing. The pulsations are caused by the light(s) being loose in the sockets, probably held in place by one loose screw, permitting them to swing up and down.

The Hate lights: To me this is probably the most provocative and irritating of all. Two very bright lights mounted on or below the bumper, slightly closer together than the regular headlights, and aimed directly at you. While the regular beams are switched up or down with the dimmer switch, those never change. It fills you with hate.

Obviously there are also various combinations of the above. You night driving holiday travelers out there, just make sure your headlight situation does not fall into any of the above categories, and.....Keep o-o-n drivin'.

GEMS FROM JOAN

(KE4SXU)

Some gems from Sunday School papers of the Church of England:

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

The 5th Commandment is: Humor thy father and mother.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

Salome was a woman who danced naked in front of Harrods.

Christians can have only one wife. This is called monotony.

The Pope lives in thc vacuum.

A republican is a sinner mentioned in the Bible.

The patron saint of travelers is St. Francis of the Seasick.

The natives of Macedonia did not believe, so St. Paul got stoned.

It is sometimes difficult to hear what is being said in church because the agnostics are so terrible.

Man goes into Mr. Donut for usual 2 donuts and coffee. This morning the waitress tells him, "We have a special- 3 donuts for $1.00." Man says, "I can't eat but 2." Waitress says, "I'll have to charge you 75 cents each for just 2." He says, "can't you sell me 2 for $1.00?" She says, "No". He says, "O.K., give me the three for $1.00." He puts the 3rd one in the garbage!
The American way!

Overheard at the doctors office: A woman wearing lots of heavy jewelry came out of the doctors office and said to her waiting friend, "The doctor said I need to lose 10 lbs, but when I take off all my jewelry I'll only need to lose 5 lbs."

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 271. (205 regular, 61 family, 5 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: NONE

RENEWALS:

17

W4CCQ BOB DARAH
WB8CLQ BOB COWGILL
AD4CU PAT PATTERSON
W9DGO JIM CAMPBELL
KS4FB TED LARABEE
KS4DW CLARA LARABEE
KJ4HON GEORGE FISHER
AA4HP HANK PHILLIPS
KD4JMX STEPHANY PHILLIPS
N4KHU DAVE ROBERTS
W4LEW JOHN WLATERS
KD4LXG PAUL WYNN
AB6NT BILL MALLMAN
KE4SEW GREG BENNETT
KK4SH VINCE GONZALES
KC4SYD CLIFF HOAG
KE4SXU JOAN HOAG
KE4TTZ SANDY THORNE
KC4UWK AL KOLLER
KD4UZS JOE CARTER
KD4VFU JACK HALL
KE4RFJ DEBBIE BUTTON
K4WSE JOHN WOOD

HAMFEST CALENDAR

1/13,14	Sarasota
1/20	Crystal River
1/21	Pinellas Park
2/3,4	Miami
2/10	Arcadia
2/10	Pensacola
2/17,18	Orlando
3/23	Stuart
3/23	Sebring
3/30	Fanning Springs
4/27,28	Gainesville
7/27,28	Jacksonville

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!